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DE RUEHTG #0577/01 1912156  
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FM AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0098  
INFO RUEHWH/WESTERN HEMISPHERIC AFFAIRS DIPL POSTS IMMEDIATE  
RUEAHND/COMJTF-B SOTO CANO HO IMMEDIATE  
RUEKJCS/JOINT STAFF WASHDC IMMEDIATE  
RUEHUB/USINT HAVANA IMMEDIATE 0221  
RUMIAAA/CDR USSOUTHCOM MIAMI FL IMMEDIATE  
RUEAHND/CDRJTFB SOTO CANO HO IMMEDIATE  
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE  
RULGPSU/COMSOC SOUTH IMMEDIATE  
RHEFDIA/DIA WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE  
RUEIDN/DNI WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE  
RUEHLMC/MILLENNIUM CHALLENGE CORP WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE 1096  
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHDC IMMEDIATE  
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE  
RUMIAAA/USSOUTHCOM MIAMI FL IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 TEGUCIGALPA 000577

SIPDIS

STATE FOR WHA/CEN

E.O. 12958: DECL: 07/10/2019

TAGS: [PGOV](#) [CASC](#) [MARR](#) [KDEM](#) [PHUM](#) [ASEC](#) [HO](#)

SUBJECT: HONDURAS COUP SITREP #16 07/10/2009 AS OF 1500  
LOCAL (1700 EDT)

REF: A. TEGUCIGALPA 543

[1](#)B. TEGUCIGALPA 573

[1](#)C. TEGUCIGALPA 574

[1](#)D. AND OTHERS

TEGUCIGALP 00000577 001.2 OF 002

Classified By: Ambassador Hugo Llorens, reasons 1.4 (b and d)

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Demonstrations Continue Outside Tegucigalpa  
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[1](#)1. (U) On July 10, approximately 2,000 Zelaya supporters assembled to block all north and south bound traffic on the CA-5 highway north of Tegucigalpa. The highway is the major traffic artery connecting the capital with Soto Cano Airbase, as well as the commercially important cities of Comayagua and San Pedro Sula. Today's protest, though significantly smaller than the June 9 pro-Zelaya protest (ref B), reaffirms the pro-Zelaya demonstrators' new tactics of staging peaceful protests outside the capital designed to disrupt major traffic arteries. As of 0815 local, there were approximately 150 police and military at the scene.

[1](#)2. (U) On Thursday, in the city of Choluteca, an anti-Zelaya group of approximately 9,000 protested in the streets peacefully. Late on Thursday, a pro-Micheletti demonstration was reported in San Pedro Sula. The demonstration was reportedly peaceful and included approximately 500 participants. Earlier in the day, 1,000 pro-Zelaya supporters marched in San Pedro Sula and dispersed peacefully by 1630 local (1830 EDT). In La Entrada, Copan, 500 Zelaya supporters gathered and marched. The demonstration dispersed peacefully.

[1](#)3. (U) On Thursday, PolOff attended a technical-level meeting at the Honduran Supreme Court, where the Supreme Court building continues to be heavily guarded by the military and no public is allowed in without specific permission by a Court employee. The heavy military presence is at odds with June 9 reports that Honduran military units were withdrawing soldiers from various government buildings in Tegucigalpa,

where they have been since June 28 (Ref B).

¶4. (SBU) The curfew for July 10 is from 23:00 to 04:30 local (01:00 to 06:30 EDT). Honduran National Police (HNP) report a drop in arrests with 79 made on Thursday night, July 9, for curfew violations.

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Political Developments; Public Opinion  
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¶5. (C) After speaking out against the de facto regime and his son's death, the father of killed protester Isis Obed Murillo (Ref A), Jose David Murillo Sanchez, was arrested and charged with attempted homicide on July 9. The warrant for Murillo Sanchez's arrest was issued on May 18, 2007 in Juticalpa, Olancho for a crime allegedly committed in 2004. His arrest follows a pattern since the coup on June 28, where the Attorney General's (AG) office has aggressively prosecuted the alleged crimes committed by those in the Zelaya Administration and now those speaking out against the current regime. (Comment: These arrests may be on valid charges, but they create the strong appearance of political retribution because of their timing. End Comment.)

¶6. (C) In a meeting with the Ambassador on July 9, the Human Rights Prosecutor (HRP) confirmed that the warrant had been issued and alluded to the political nature of the prosecution referring to it as a "terrible incident." The HRP stated that the AG's office has been partial to the de facto regime and has not provided the resources or demonstrated interest in pursuing alleged human rights violations. In septel, Post will provide more in depth report on human rights situation.

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¶7. (U) Since the curfew was initiated by the Micheletti regime on June 28, Tegucigalpa's nightlife economy has been hit hard. For example, Tegucigalpa's Boulevard Morazan is known for the countless Mariachis that line the street where clients contract them to play at parties and gatherings. According to one interviewed by local press, "we don't know what to do; this curfew has destroyed the Mariachis. We have children in school." Another complained that, "since the curfew started we have been making nothing."

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Infrastructure and Communications  
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¶8. (U) Toncontin Airport remains open and has been operating since Tuesday afternoon, July 7. Continental Airlines resumed flights into Toncontin on Wednesday July 8. Delta Airlines resumed flights yesterday, July 9, and American Airlines plans to resume full operations today, Friday July 10 or Saturday, July 11. San Pedro Sula airport remains open for international flights, and American, Continental and Delta airlines continue to operate flights as usual to and from that destination. All land borders are reportedly open to both private and commercial traffic.

¶9. (U) As of Friday morning, there are no reports of abnormal public utility outages in the country.

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Consular and Embassy Operations  
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¶10. (SBU) Until commercial flights at Toncontin Airport have fully resumed, the Embassy's Management office continues to support official air travel via San Pedro Sula and provide over land transportation to Tegucigalpa as needed.

¶11. (U) The Embassy is open for all regular consular services today, July 10. Barring a change in the security situation, the consular section plans to be open for regular consular

services until further notice.

¶12. (U) The Consular Section has received welfare and whereabouts inquiries on more than 650 Amcits to date via telephone and email. Post will issue a warden message July 10, drawing attention to the possibility of demonstrations and roadblocks over the weekend. The Consular Section has advised Amcits to abide by the curfew and monitor the Embassy website for updates.

¶13. (SBU) The next EAC will take place Monday July 13, at 1400 local time (1600 EDT).  
LLORENS